

In the Claims

1-63. (cancelled)

64. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 67 68, wherein the heating means is infra-red radiation directed towards said support frame.

65. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 67 68, in which the sample plates are microtitre plates, ~~wherein the trays and the frame are formed from a material having a high thermal conductivity,~~ and wherein each tray on which a microtitre plate is located includes a region formed with an upstanding portion defining a platform adapted to fit into and engage a recessed underside of a microtitre plate is located thereon, which would otherwise be spaced from the tray, thereby to improve the transfer of heat between the tray and the plate.

66. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 67 68, wherein the frame and trays are formed from aluminum or copper.

67. (cancelled)

68. (new) Centrifugal evaporation apparatus for heating and rotating a plurality of samples during an evaporation process, comprising:

- a vacuum chamber in which the samples are heated and rotated under vacuum;
- the samples being contained in a plurality of wells or other containers;
- a support frame in said chamber;
- a plurality of trays supported on said frame;

- a sample plate supported on each tray and including said plurality of wells or other containers;
- radiant heating means for heating the support frame; and
- means for rotating said frame;
- wherein said frame and trays are made of a thermally conductive material, whereby heat is transferred by conduction from said support frame to the sample plates and thus to the samples.